

We must find a better way to regulate the distribution of handguns so that kids growing up can learn to practice peace and not war.

IN MEMORY OF KYLE WILKS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, one of America's finest, Kyle Wilks from the Third District of Arkansas.

Kyle, a marine from Rogers, Arkansas, serving with the II Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, died last week. He was in a convoy of 36 vehicles in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan when his vehicle was struck by an IED.

In 2004, Kyle entered the Marine Corps to help others. His devotion to his friends, his family, and his unit was selfless. The commitment Kyle showed his fellow soldiers and his country is something we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle Wilks is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I ask my colleagues to keep the Wilks' family and his friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT CHAIRMAN FRANK'S COMMITTEE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Banking Committee under the leadership of Chairman BARNEY FRANK who, this week, will take us in the direction that this Congress needs to lead the country. They will mark up a bill that will establish a substantial pool of funds that will enable local governments to be able to purchase foreclosed properties and turn them into affordable housing for families desperately in need of housing they can afford in this economy. They will also help families that are on the cusp of losing their homes to be able to keep their homes. This is so important.

Mr. Speaker, as many as 7 million families will lose their homes by the end of this year. In fact, mortgage defaults are up by 72 percent. Local governments will lose \$7 billion in property tax revenue that they desperately need for public safety and roads and all of the other municipal services that are so important.

We are on the cusp of a recession. We need to act quickly and comprehensively to do the right thing. Chairman FRANK's committee is doing the right thing. We need to support them.

WHAT ARE THE DEMOCRATS' SOLUTIONS TO HIGH GAS PRICES?

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to read a few floor comments, if I could.

This one is made July 28, 2005, in a floor statement by Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT:

"Republicans have written a bill that favors corporate America over mainstream America. Sixty dollars for a barrel of oil that breaks the backs and the budgets of mainstream Americans is a scandal."

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what Mr. MCDERMOTT thinks about \$119 a barrel of oil.

Mr. Speaker, on April 20, 2005, in a floor statement, then minority leader NANCY PELOSI said this:

"The Republican energy bill is warmed-over stew of old provisions and outdated policies. Democrats have better ideas."

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the Democrats to bring forth these better ideas because since the Democrats have taken control, gas prices are up over \$1.25 a gallon.

Mr. Speaker, May 23, 2006, in a floor statement by Mr. FRANK PALLONE:

"As Americans prepare to travel this weekend for the Memorial Day holiday, they should know that Democrats are offering real solutions."

Mr. PALLONE, we need to see those solutions.

TIME TO ACT ON THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to act. Record high prices for gasoline and diesel fuels are crippling our economy and taking our hard-earned money and putting it into the bank accounts of Big Oil and market speculators. The President must take action today to provide relief for small businesses and ordinary people who are fighting just to keep their heads above water.

With the price of diesel fuel hitting \$4 per gallon and the strategic petroleum reserve at 95 percent full, it's time for action. The petroleum reserve has 695 million gallons within it, approximately the same in August of 2005 when the President released, due to Katrina and due to Hurricane Rita, the oil supplies. According to independent analysts, if we suspend purchasing additional oil into the reserve, it will lower gas prices by 25 cents per gallon. Whose side is this administration on?

Times are tough, and the two things the President can do right now is to cut the cost of fuel at the pump and also to reduce health care costs. Today, I ask the President, again, to join me in working together to put more money in the pockets of ordinary taxpayers instead of Big Oil.

HONORING NORM "JACK" SNOW

(Mr. KUHLE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHLE of New York. Mr. Speaker, for the past 30 year, Norm "Jack" Snow has been a familiar face in the town of Milo, Yates County, New York, serving as councilman for 12 years before moving into the supervisor position for the last 18 years. Jack has offered his strength, his courage, his convictions to the town of Milo. He announced his retirement at the beginning of this year, much to the dismay of the people he represents.

A native of upstate New York, Jack grew up on a dairy farm walking one mile to a one-room schoolhouse, in which he jokes was "uphill both ways." Jack didn't grow up dreaming of politics but decided he could make a difference in the community that he loved. Besides his 30 years of public service, Jack is an active member in the community serving as the President of the Shrine Club, which enables 700 school children from around the State to attend the Shrine Circus each year.

Jack cites that the reason he stayed in politics for 30 years was because of the terrific people he worked with every day. But it was us who were blessed to work with Jack, and more importantly, blessed to know him. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RIISING GAS PRICES ARE NOT THE SOLUTION AMERICANS WANT FROM THE DEMOCRATS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, in a press release on April 24, 2006, then Leader PELOSI, now Speaker PELOSI said, Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing cost of gasoline. In an op-ed penned by my friend from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), he claimed that their success is because Democrats realize the anxiety of stagnating wages, the cost of health care, education, and even gasoline and vowed to address their concerns.

Well, they addressed their concerns. Gas prices are up. When the Democrats took over, gas prices were \$2.33. Now they are \$3.53. We call this the Pelosi Premium. Add the 50 cent gas tax for climate change, consumers would be paying \$4.03. And when gas prices reach \$4 this summer, add 50 cents for climate change; we will be paying \$4.53 for a gallon of gas.

That's not the type of change that the suburbs in America bargained for when they allowed Democrats to get this Chamber.